

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Post Office Box 117
Sibley, Mississippi 39165
February 03, 2003

Jim Kennedy
NABCP Conservation Fund Coordinator
P.O. Box 162603
Austin, TX 78716

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I am pleased to inform you that we have completed work on the **"Artificial Stabilization Project to Benefit the Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat"** that was jointly funded by your organization and NFWF in 1999. I reference the attached letter dated 3/25/02 in which we requested an extension to the project and your 4/3/02 response granting that extension.

As you may recall, the project included the replacement of a declining roosting structure known as the "white house", with a alternate replacement roosting structure. The project also included the stabilization of two unused/abandoned brick houses. The work on these houses included covering the roofs and sealing windows and doors. All three of these structures have well documented historic use by Rafinesque's. We believe the improvements we have made at each location will definitely promote even more use by these and other bat species.

Please find attached a summary report which includes a series of photo's with descriptive narratives highlighting the work at each site. I am also including a CD copy of all photo's taken during work on the project.

As there does not appear to be a standard format for the final report, I intend for this letter and the attached summary information to serve that purpose. If additional information is required however, I hope you will not hesitate to call.

Last but not least, I would like to ask that final payment of the remaining 25% (\$1,250.00) of the grant be made to the "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" in order to balance our books. I have included a breakdown of project expenses at the end of the attached summary report. I also want to thank you for the spirit of cooperation you and your staff have exhibited in allowing/helping us complete this important project. It has truly been a pleasurable experience. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Steve Brock
Deputy Project Leader

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Post Office Box 117
Sibley, Mississippi 39165
March 25, 2002

Mr. Jim Kennedy
Bat Conservation International, Inc.
P.O. Box 162603
Austin, TX 78716

Dear Mr. Kennedy:


I am writing in response to our recent telephone conversation regarding a project funded by your organization in 1999, **"Artificial Habitat Stabilization Project To Benefit The Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat On St. Catherine Creek NWR"**. As I shared with you during our conversation, both the ~~current~~ manager (Randy Breland) and myself are new to the refuge. While reviewing the ~~refuge's financial records late last year we discovered your organizations funding for this project (\$5,000) and that the refuge had received an equal match from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. To our dismay, we discovered that the project was originally scheduled for completion in FY2000 and unfortunately, we found that none of the work has been~~ accomplished.

Both Randy and myself feel this is a very ~~worthwhile~~ project and we would like to see it through to completion. I am writing to request an extension of the original agreement through calendar year 2002. I would also like to ask for approval of a project modification. One of the primary objectives of the original project was to stabilize a existing old farm house that contains the greatest known concentration of Rafinesque's on the refuge. Unfortunately, this house has deteriorated to a state beyond repair. As I shared during our conversation, we would like to construct another structure next to the house to provide an alternate roost site the bats may transition to as the house declines.

As per your recommendation, I have talked with Mr. Kaiser who has subsequently sent me a design for the alternate structure. We do of course plan to complete the stabilization work on the two brick homes that were also included in the project. There is a possibility that the roof of one or both of these homes may also be beyond repair. If we find this to be the case, I will contact you to discuss alternatives to the originally planned modifications to the houses, which included new exterior doors and sealing the windows to discourage access by vandals.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please do not hesitate to call. We truly appreciate your and Bat Conservation Internationals willingness to work with us in seeing this important project accomplished. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Steve Brock
Deputy Project Leader



Bat Conservation International, Inc.

Post Office Box 162603 • Austin, Texas 78716 • 512/327-9721 • FAX 327-9724

April 3, 2002

Steve Brock, Deputy Project Leader
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Post Office Box 117
Sibley, MS 39165-0117

Dear Steve,

I am sorry to hear about the departure of Jim and Elaine Hall from the Refuge. I certainly look forward to working with you and your staff on future bat projects.

Bat Conservation International is still committed to honoring our grant to the Refuge for work with *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*. Due to the amount of time that has passed since the original proposal was submitted, it is entirely reasonable that changes will be made to the work previously outlined. The continued deterioration of the building that was the primary target of the grant is a case in point. I fully agree with your suggested modifications to the original work plan, as outlined in your letter of 25 March. The construction of an alternate roost is an acceptable alternative, contingent on the work being done to specifications approved by Mark and Selena Kiser, coordinators of the North American Bat House Research Project at our office. If the plan to stabilize the other two (brick) structures on the refuge also needs to be modified, let me know. We hope that a monitoring plan for all known structures used by bats on the refuge will also be developed and described in your final report to NABCP.

Finally, since the original deadline has long since passed, we grant an extension to the project through 31 December 2002. We hope that the time and funds remaining are adequate. And we are happy to be partners in your effort to protect and study the bat fauna of St. Catherine Creek. Please keep us posted on your progress, and don't forget to take good photos that tell this story. I am enclosing a new copy of our Photographic Guidelines so you have a better idea of our needs.

Sincerely,

Jim Kennedy
NABCP Conservation Fund Coordinator
jkennedy@batcon.org

enclosure

Artificial Stabilization Project to Benefit the Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat
Final Summary Report
02/03/2003

The project had three primary components or phases. The first phase included the stabilization of a abandoned farm house which has historically supported the largest concentration of Rafinesque's on the refuge. Due to the excessive deterioration of the farm house it was determined that it would not be economically feasible to repair the structure. In consultation with BCI staff, the decision was made to construct a small building next to the farm house to provide a alternative roost structure to which the bats might move as the it became unsuitable. Construction design for the alternative roost structure was provided by BCI.



Figure 1. Front view of abandoned farm house, deterioration of roof dormer is apparent.



Figure 2. Rear view of abandoned farm house demonstrating excessive deterioration of the roof.

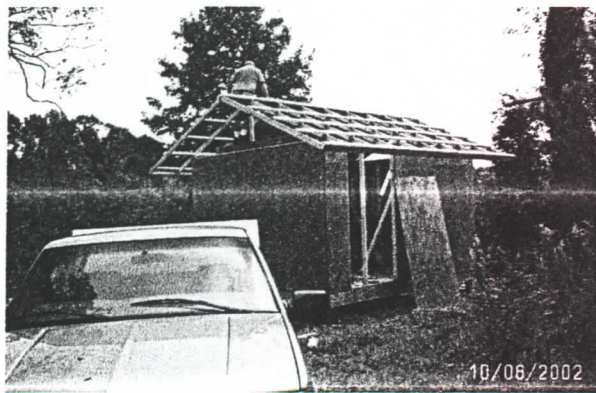


Figure 3. Alternative roost structure under construction.

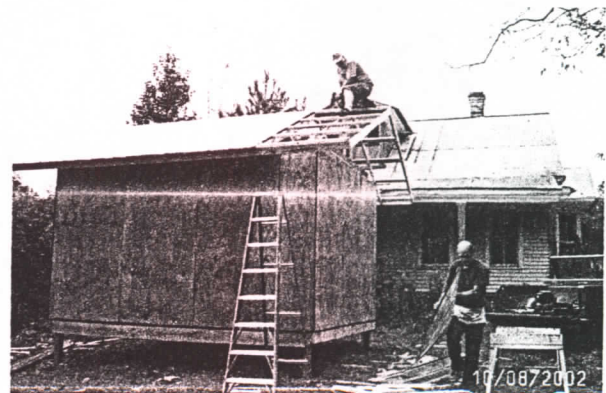


Figure 4. Alternative roost structure near nearing completion, farm house in background.

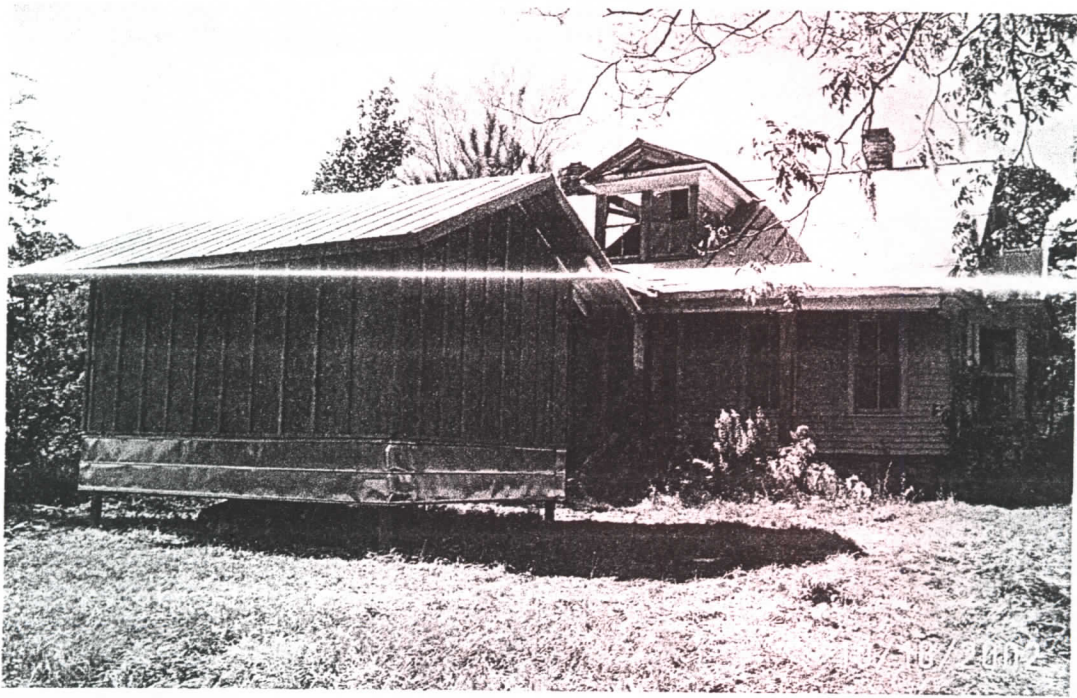


Figure 5. Completed alternative roost structure, rear view.

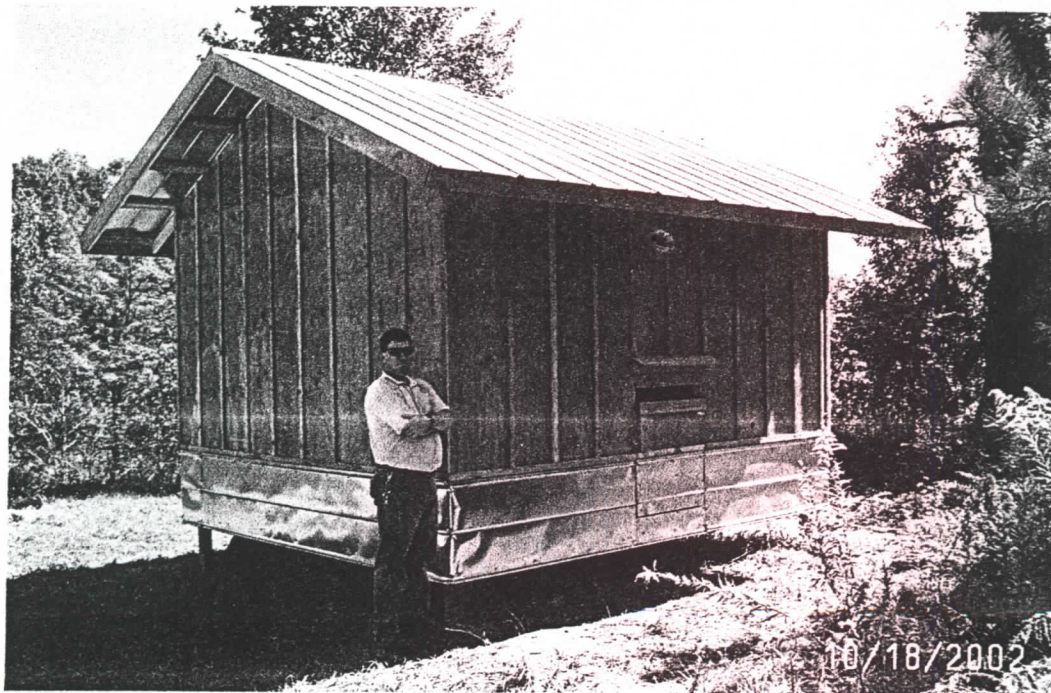
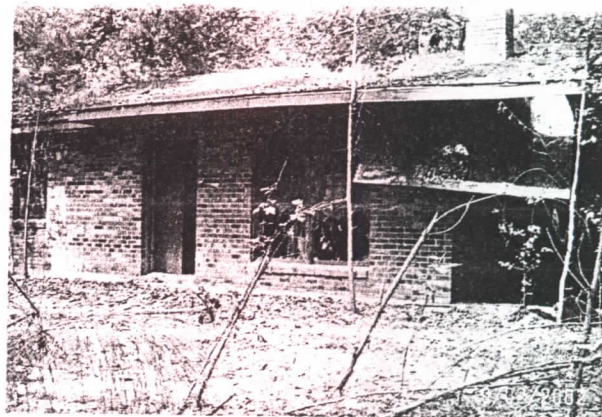
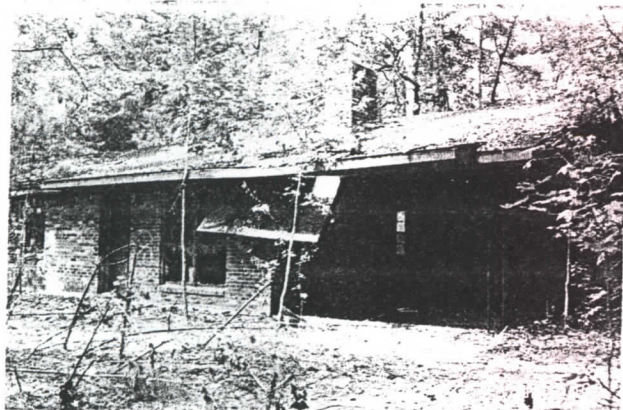


Figure 6. Alternative roost structure, view of front with access door visible.

Second and third phases of the project focused on stabilizing and improving two abandoned brick tenant houses which also have a documented history of supporting smaller numbers of Rafinesque's. Like the white house, these houses had deteriorated roofs, as well as broken down doors and numerous shattered windows. Work on these houses was aimed at stabilizing the roofs by covering them with tin, replacing the doors with either solid wood or steel and sealing the windows leaving gaps for bat ingress and egress.



Figures 7 & 8. Front view of brick house #1 prior to renovation. Pictures depict deteriorating roof, open doors and shattered windows.

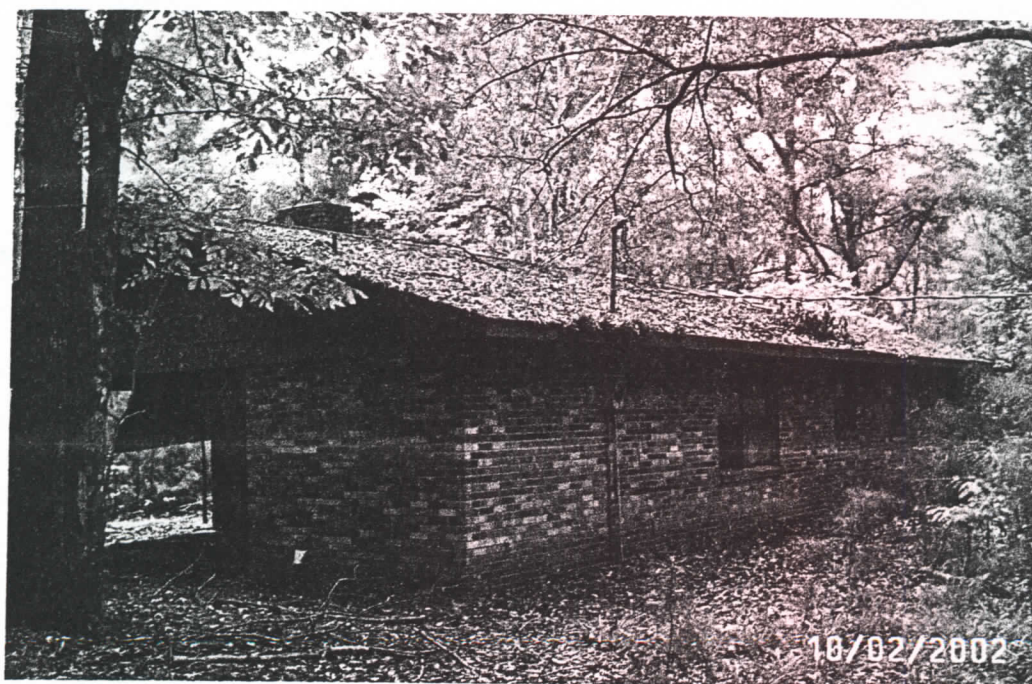


Figure 9. Rear view of brick house #1 prior to renovation. Years of debris rotting on roof has accelerated shingle decomposition causing numerous leaks and some rotting of roof structure.

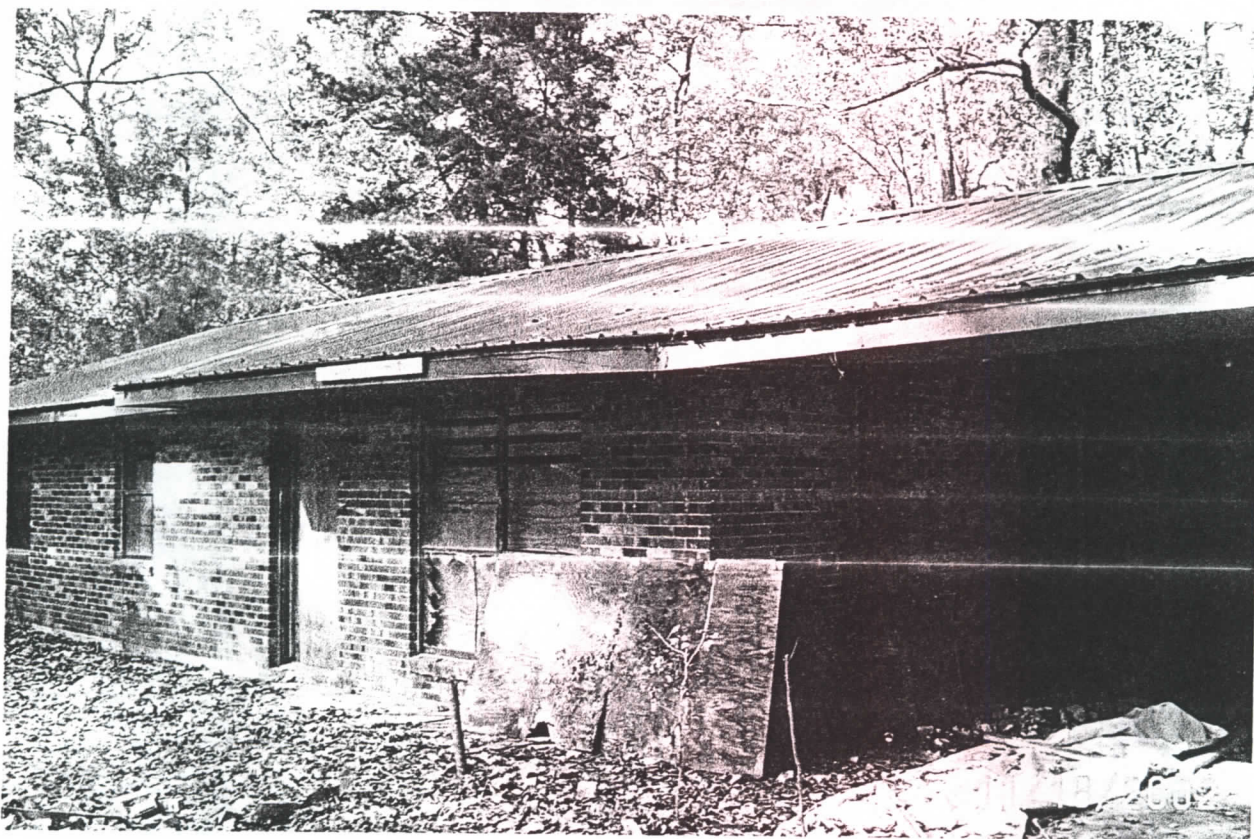


Figure 10. Completed renovation of brick house #1. New tin roof, sealed front door and slatted windows are readily apparent.

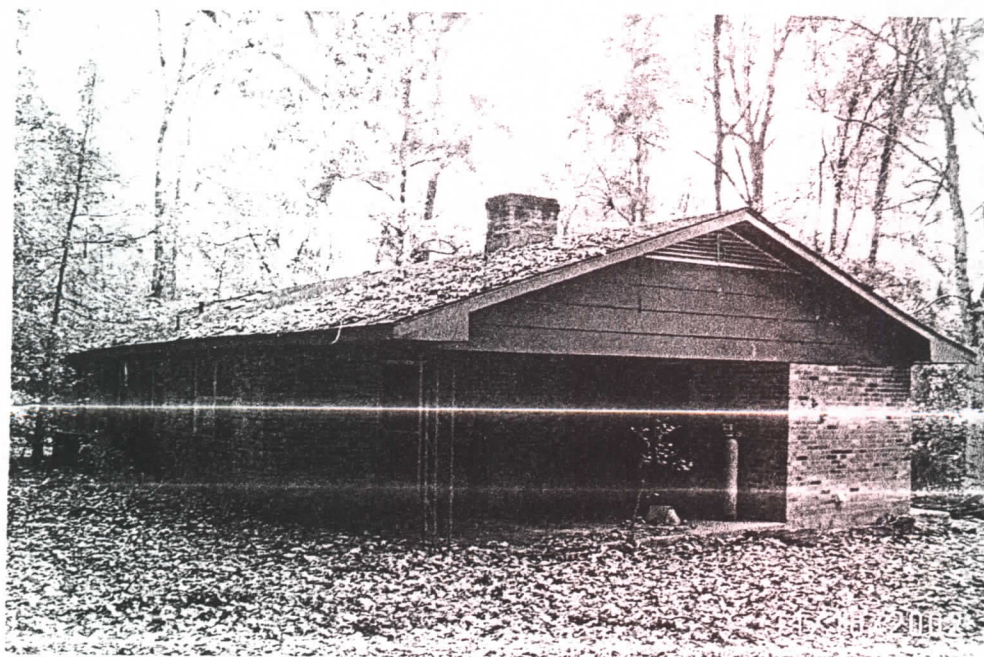


Figure 11. Rear view of brick house #2 prior to renovation.



Figure 14. Completed renovation of brick house #2, rear view.

Break down of total cost to complete work on all three structures in the table below.

Description	Farm House	Brick House #1	Brick House #2	Totals
Labor	\$1,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,600.00
Materials	\$1,789.00	\$1,763.20	\$1,306.34	\$4,858.54

TOTAL = \$9,458.54